

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11 and 13-18 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 9, 13 and 18 being independent.

The claims have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the features of Claims 2 and 10, respectively. In addition, Claims 13 and 18 have been placed in independent form.

Based on the indication that Claims 2, 10, 11, 13-16 and 18 contain allowable subject matter, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ueda '455. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, and in the interest of expediting prosecution, these claims have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 1, 9, 13 and 18 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 3, 5-8, 11 and 14-17 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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